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ASTONISHING X-MEN

JOSS WHEDON • JOHN CASSADAY

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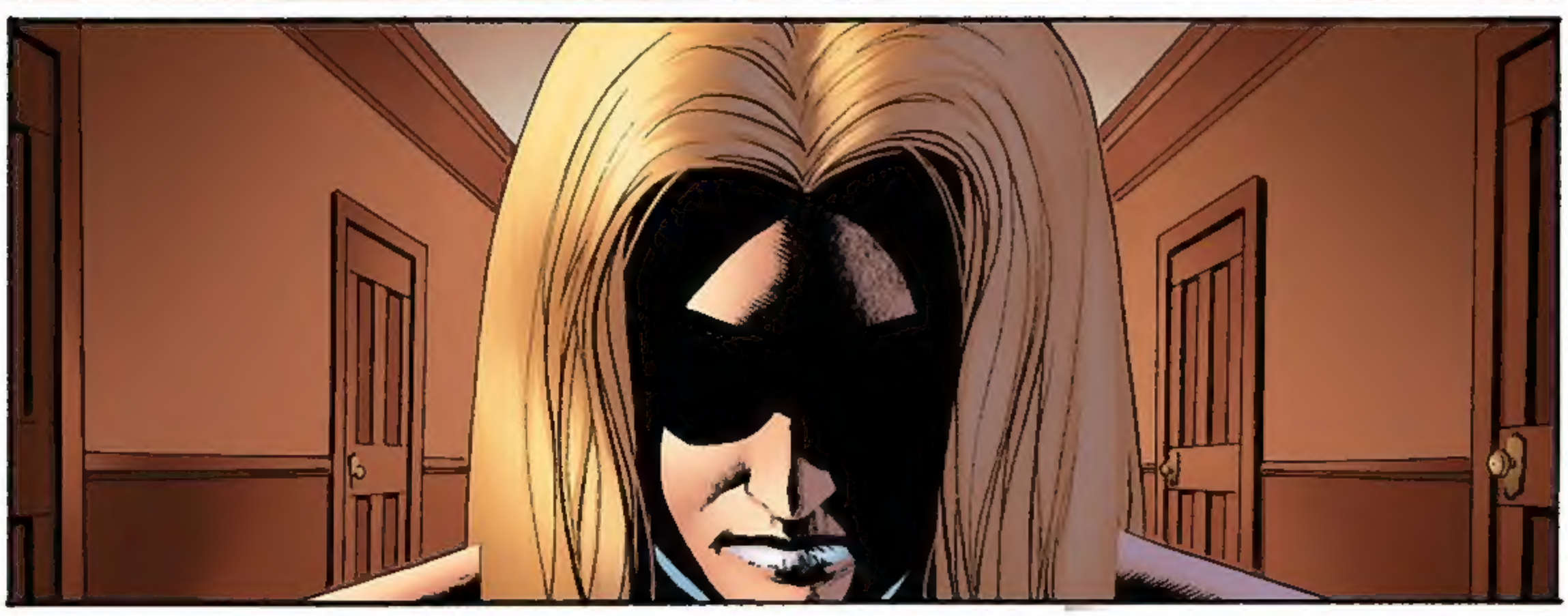
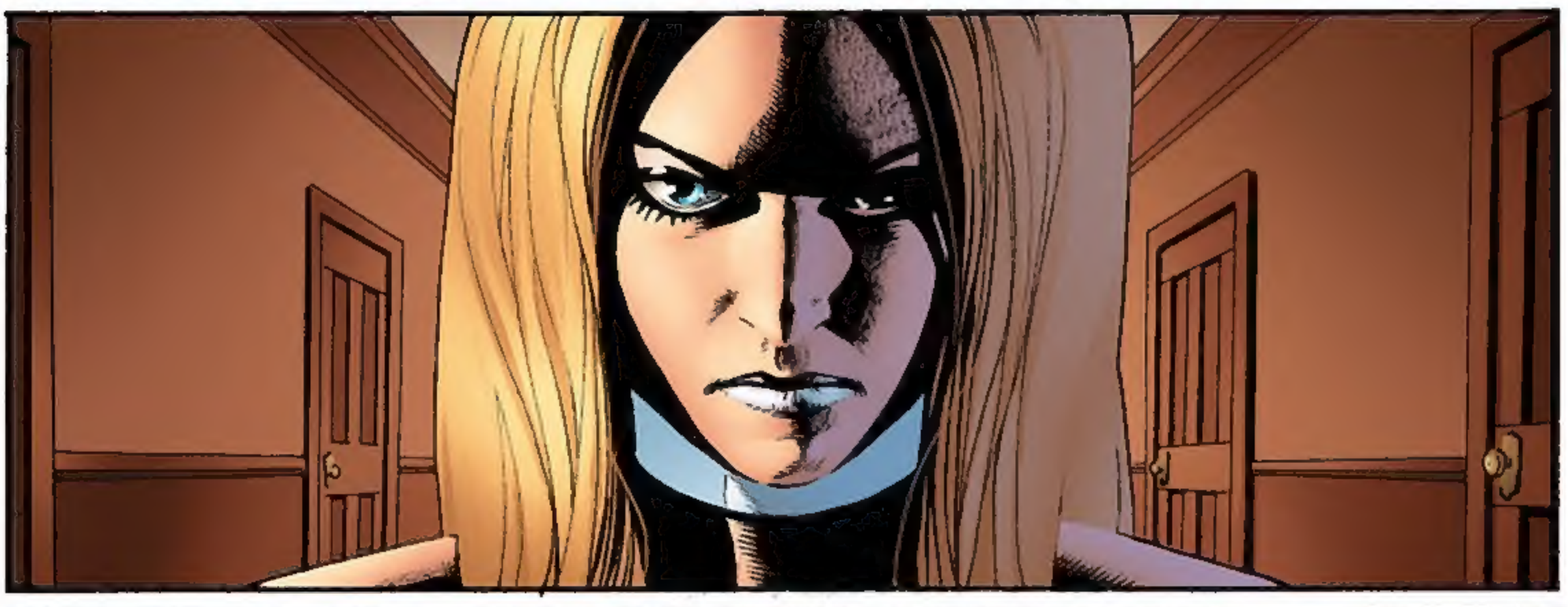



SCOTT!

OH GOD, I NEED, I NEED...

SCOTT'S GONE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "GONE"?

WHERE'S HENRY?

SIT DOWN.

NO!

WE HAVE TO...LOGAN, FIND HENRY PLEASE, I HAVE TO...

GET HENRY.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. McCOY.

EVEN WITH YOUR ADVANCED DEVOLUTION...

...YOU MANAGED NOT TO PEE.

IF YOU SHUT DOWN MY...

...MY HIGHER BRAIN FUNCTIONS...

...THEN I'M JUST A BEAST.

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENS THEN?

NOTHING, PET.

YOUR DWINDLING HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE ONLY THING THAT PERCEIVES ME AS A THREAT.

THE *BEAST* DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I'M HERE.

TELL ME TRUE, WHILE YOU CAN...

...DO YOU EVEN SMELL ANOTHER PERSON IN THIS ROOM?

OH MY GOD.

SCOTT!

WHAT HAPPENED?

I JUST FOUND HIM--HE WAS FINE WHEN WE WENT TO BED...

I CAN'T GET IN HIS MIND!

WE'LL TAKE HIM TO THE LAB. DO YOU THINK HE'S LOST HIS POWER?

MAYBE HANK'LL KNOW.

OH GOD.

THIS COULD BE AN ATTACK.

KITTY, YOU SHOULD CHECK ON THE STUDENTS.

RIGHT...

I'LL DO THAT.

HIS GLASSES.

WE NEED HIS GLASSES, IN CASE HIS POWER RETURNS WHEN HE WAKES.

EMMA?

HEY, LISTEN, HAVE YOU BEEN UP LONG?

I WAS WONDERING IF YOU SAW ANYBODY... NEW...

I'M SORRY, I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME...

WELL, MR. RASPUTIN.

HERE YOU ARE, STUCK IN A LABORATORY AGAIN.

HOW DOES THAT FEEL?

BECAUSE IF YOU HAVE ANY FEELINGS BOTTLED UP, IT'S BEST YOU LET THEM OUT.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO SCOTT?

MAYBE I'M WRONG. MAYBE YOU ALREADY WORKED YOUR PENT-UP FEELING OUT...

...ON LITTLE MISS PRYDE.

"I DREAMED THIS."

I DREAMED ABOUT A KITTY CAT, KITTY KITTY CATTY.

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE.

I DREAMED YOU PHASED AWAY.

I DREAMED YOU COULDN'T STOP.

SHE THINKS SHE CAN BEAT ME.

BUT THE BALD LADY FORGOT ONE THING.

I'M THE BEST AT WHAT I DO.

AND WHAT I DO...

...IS SO TERRIBLY PRETTY!

EEEEEEEE

ISN'T IT THE BEST, MISS NOVA?

SAY MINE IS THE BEST OR I SHALL BE CROSS ALL DAY!

MISS NOVA?

TUKRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

MOTHER...

I CAN BEAT THIS.

I'M NOT GONNA BE PURPLE-MANNED BY SOME GOTH PUNK. I'M TOO OLD TO BE...

OH MY GOD, I JUST SAID *"SOME GOTH PUNK"*. I'M *REALLY* OLD.

AND I'M GONNA DIE IF I DON'T FOCUS. I GOTTA MATERIALIZE.

PREFERABLY NOT IN THE MAGMA. HOW FAR DOWN AM I? IT FEELS DENSER, JUST PASSING THROUGH IT.

PETER'S UP THERE.

WITH EMMA. FOCUS ON THAT.

BEAT THIS.

I THINK IT'S GOING WELL, DON'T YOU?

THE THERAPY?

POOR SCOTT'S SEEMED TO HAVE TIRED HIMSELF OUT.

I'M HAVING FUN.

BUT YOU NEVER TIRE, DO YOU?

NEVER COMPLAIN, NEVER SPEAK UP AT ALL. A CHILD OF THE SOVIET, FIRST AND LAST.

WHY SHOULD I COMPLAIN?

HEY, IT'S ME, OKAY? THERE'S NO ONE ELSE AROUND.

JUST TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG.

GO AWAY, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, I'M HERE, SITTING.

BLINDFOLD, I COULD HEAR YOU CRYING IN THE *HALL*. I JUST WANT TO HELP.

I DON'T CRY.

I NEVER HAVE.

YOU MAKE A NOISE.

EMBARRASSMENT, I KEEN. I ACHE, YOU KNOW, YOU *DO* KNOW...

IS SOMETHING GOING ON?

SOMETHING, PLEASE, YES...

WE'RE GOING TO LOSE ANOTHER ONE.

GIRLS

HELP!

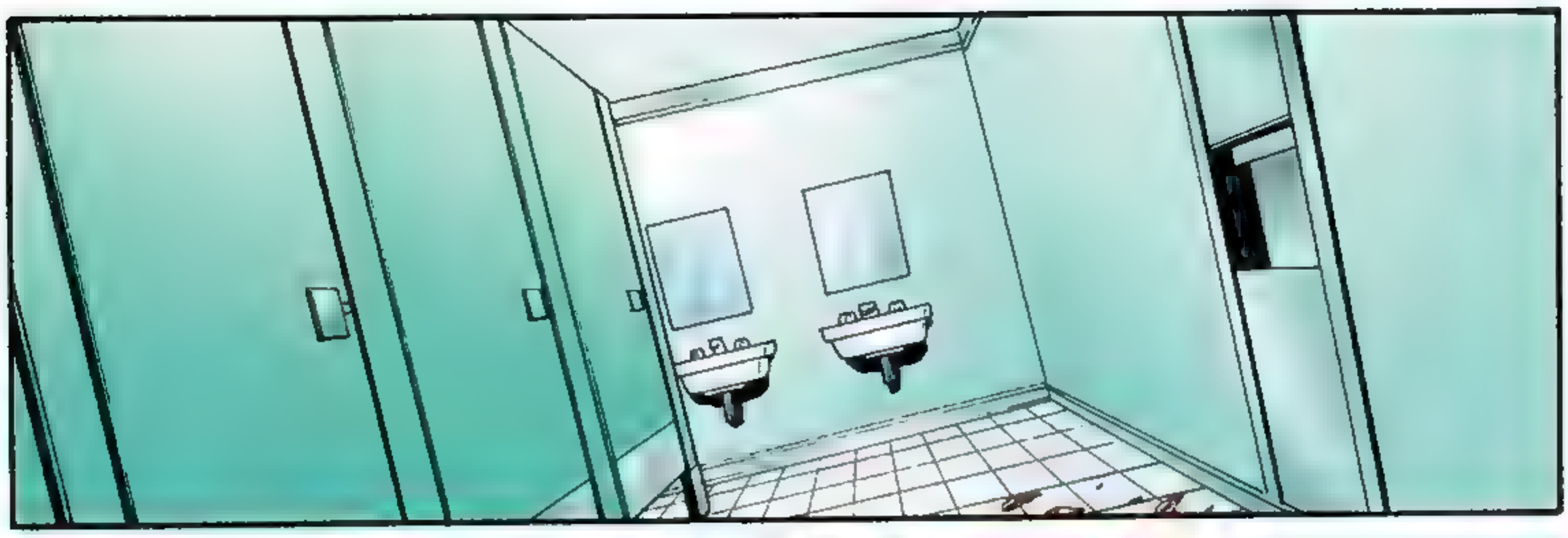
WHAT ARE YOU--

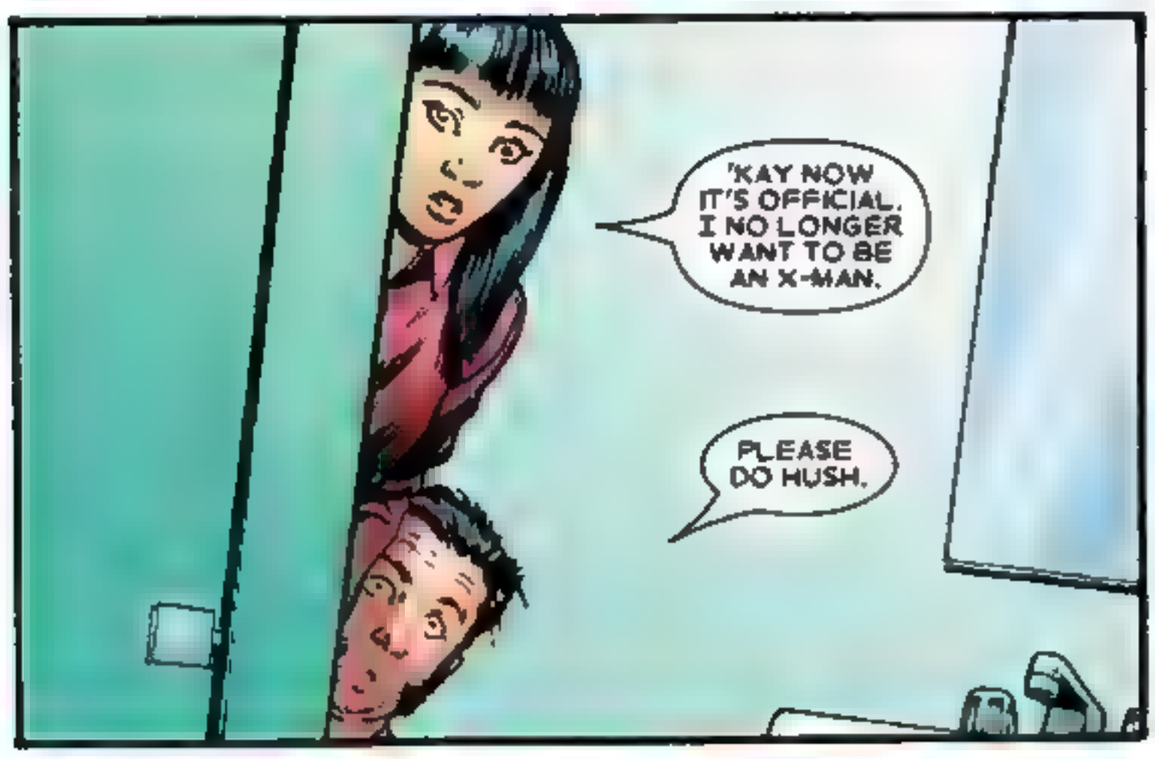
A BEAST! A TIGER, ONLY BLUE, AND LARGE AS A MOOSE!

DO HIDE ME, ONLY SAY YOU'LL DO...

UH...

...IS THIS A TEST?




'KAY NOW IT'S OFFICIAL. I NO LONGER WANT TO BE AN X-MAN.
PLEASE DO HUSH.

SNIFF

BLINDFOLD, STAY DOWN!
RRRRAAAAOOO...TRGGHHH!

...HELL WAS THAT?
"NOT THAT I ENTIRELY CARE..."

...BUT THESE GUYS JUST CANNOT CATCH A BREAK.

THEY GO DOWN, THEY GO DOWN HARD.

LEAST OUR MOLE'S TRANSMITTING THIS TIME. WHAT A MESS.

THE PSYCHIC TURMOIL COMING FROM THAT MANSION IS OVERWHELMING...

WOW, WE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE PAYING YOU ENOUGH.

...AND FAMILIAR.

AN OLD PLAYER?

I WILL RUN THE FILES AND FIND IT.

JUST STAY CLEAR OF THE PRISONER.

WHATEVER'S GOING DOWN...

"...IT'S NOT GONNA HELP HIM NOW."

PLEASE DO NOT TURN AROUND.

I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE MONITORS NOT TO DETECT ME. BUT IF YOU APPEAR TO BE CONVERSING, EVEN WITH YOURSELF, IT WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED.

BESIDES, YOUR BEST MOVE NOW WOULD BE TO LISTEN.

WE HAVE SIMILARITIES, YOU AND I. BOTH VICTIMS OF THE MUTANT THREAT. BOTH CHOSEN TO STAND FOR OUR RACES AGAINST THEIR UNTHINKING TYRANNY.

BOTH FAILURES.

YOU HAD BEST WATCH YOUR MOUTH, CREATURE.

YOUR PEOPLE ARE ON THEIR WAY.

THEY COME IN FORCE. TO DESTROY THE KILLER OF WORLDS.

YES. THE KILLER IS FOUND.

AND YOU ARE VERY LOST.

TELL ME WHAT WE ARE FACING HERE OR MY NEXT BLOW WILL END YOU.

YOU REALLY...

YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER?

MY POWER. I ABSORB KINETIC ENERGY.

CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW MUCH YOU'VE JUST GIVEN ME?

"IT'S A GOOD START."

SUMMERS IS A ZOMBIE, PRYDE'S A GHOST. RASPUTIN, A VICTIM OF HIS OWN RAGE.

BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY HE HAS PLENTY.

MY TWO WERE SIMPLICITY ITSELF. A BEAST WHO THOUGHT HE WAS A MAN...

...AND A FRIGHTENED LITTLE BOY WHO FANCIED HIMSELF A BEAST.

THE MOOSE HAS MY SCENT AGAIN! O!

THIS IS BUT PROLOGUE.

YEAH, FINALLY! THE MAIN EVENT! THE WOW FINISH.

THE END OF DREAMS.

"BEING AN X-MAN MEANS A LOT TO ME...

"...BUT IT DOESN'T ALWAYS AGREE WITH ME.

"I WANTED SOMEONE ON THE TEAM THAT I HADN'T REALLY FOUGHT ALONGSIDE.

"SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE INCLINED TO WATCH ME, IF I..."

ALL RIGHT, EMMA.

YOU BROUGHT ME IN.

YOU MADE YOUR MOVE. JUST LIKE I KNEW YOU WOULD.

A NICE MOVE.

NOW IT'S MY TURN.

G85
EMPIRE